

8th Grade American History Syllabus

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Class Description:

8th Grade U.S. History is a survey course that explores the development of the United States from the era of European exploration and colonization through Reconstruction following the Civil War. Throughout the course, students will examine the major events, people, ideas, and conflicts that shaped the nation. Emphasis will be placed on developing an understanding of American history through geographic, economic, political, social, and historical perspectives from the 1400s through the late 1800s.

Grading Practices & Scale:

Student grades are designed to reflect both ongoing learning and demonstrated mastery of course content. The grading scale used will be consistent with that set by the district's BOE. Grades will be divided into Formative Assessments (20%) and Summative Assessments (80%).

Formative Assessments — 20%

Formative assessments are used to measure student progress, reinforce learning, and prepare students for summative assessments. These may include:

- **Homework/Classwork:** Homework will generally be collected the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. Classwork is expected to be completed during the assigned class period or by the established due date.
- **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given periodically to measure student understanding and will typically include questions and skills similar to those assessed on tests.

Assignments that are not submitted by the established due date will receive **0 credit**, except when a student is entitled to additional time or a make-up opportunity under CFBOE policy, the Secondary Student Handbook, an IEP/504 Plan, or other applicable district requirements.

Summative Assessments — 80%

Summative assessments measure a student's mastery of course standards and learning objectives. These may include **tests and projects**. Because these assessments represent demonstrated mastery of course content, they will carry the greatest weight in determining a student's overall grade.

Late Work & Retakes

Late assignments and assessment retakes are **not ordinarily accepted**. Exceptions will be made when required by CFBOE policy, the Secondary Student Handbook, a student's IEP/504 Plan, or other applicable district requirements, including required make-up opportunities related to qualifying student absences.

Students are responsible for communicating with the teacher and completing eligible make-up work within the timeframe established by applicable school and district policies.

Classroom Rules & Expectations

We will follow all school rules and expectations. Beyond that, **common sense, responsibility, and respect** will guide how we operate in this classroom. Our classroom should be a place where everyone feels comfortable participating, asking questions, making mistakes, and learning.

Textbook & Course Materials

Classroom textbooks/workbooks will remain in the classroom unless otherwise directed. Students will also have access to digital textbook materials through the **HMH portal**. Instructions for accessing these materials will be provided in class.

Supplies Needed

Students should come to class prepared each day with:

- **Fully charged Chromebook**
- **1 college-ruled notebook, 70 pages or more** — used for class notes and periodically graded
- **1 pocket folder** — used to organize class materials and periodically graded
- **Pen or pencil**
- **Highlighters** — highly recommended
- **Colored pencils or markers** — recommended, but not required

Technology

Chromebooks should be **fully charged before arriving at school each day**. Our classroom has limited access to electrical outlets, so regularly arriving with an uncharged Chromebook may result in consequences. Students are responsible for the appropriate use and care of their devices. Misuse of technology or abuse of technology privileges will not be tolerated.

Technology should help you learn—not distract you or those around you. Chromebooks are only to be opened to their viewing screen when appropriate to the ongoing classroom assignment for this course.

Leaving the Classroom

Once the bell rings, students should be prepared to remain in class for the entire period. Passes during instructional time will generally not be issued except when necessary or in the case of an emergency.

If You Are Absent

If you miss class, it is **your responsibility to determine what you missed and complete eligible make-up work**. Students will be provided make-up opportunities consistent with school and district policies.

If you miss a quiz, test, or other assessment, be prepared to make it up promptly upon your return. The specific make-up date will be determined by Mr. Ortopan based on the circumstances of the absence and applicable school policies.

Communication & Support

Good communication is one of the best ways to prevent small problems from becoming bigger ones. Students and parents/guardians are always welcome to contact Mr. Ortopan with questions or concerns.

Email: cf_ortopan@cftigers.org

Parents and guardians may contact Mr. Ortopan by email at any time. **ParentSquare** will also be used throughout the year for important classroom and school communication.

Most importantly: communicate early. If you are struggling, have a question, or need help, do not wait until the end of the grading period. The sooner I know there is a problem, the sooner we can work together to address it.

Come prepared. Participate. Take responsibility. Treat people with respect. Ask for help when you need it.